Reference to the death of Her Highness Sri Vani Vilas Sannidhana.

At the outset, SRIMATHI SAKAMMA, referring to the death of Her Highness Sri Vani Vilas Sannidhana, Maharani Regent, C.I., said that the late Maharani Regent had done much to advance the cause of women and in her death the women of the State as a whole had suffered an irreparable loss. She requested that the heartfelt and sincere condolences which she was giving expression to on their behalf be conveyed to the bereaved members of the Ruling House.

MR. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR spoke as follows :—

I wish to convey to you our heartfelt and sincere thanks for the very appropriate manner in which you have made reference in your speech to the passing away of the Maharani Regent, Sri Vani Vilas Sannidhana, and to the feelings which you have given expression to on our behalf of our sense of profound sorrow. You have very rightly expressed our condolences and we wish you to convey to His Highness the Maharaja, His Highness the Yuvaraja and the other members of the Ruling House our sincere, loyal and respectful condolences in their bereavement.

Swearing in of Members.

The following members made the prescribed Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to His Highness the Maharaja and then took their seats :—

1. Mr. Sharabhanna (Anekal Taluk).
2. Mr. C. Murigappaiya (Holalkere Taluk).
3. Mr. M. S. Dyave Gowda (Koppa Taluk).
4. Mr. Hutche Gowda (Mudigere Taluk).

REPRESENTATIONS.

No. 2.—Reduction of salaries.

Mr. V. R. Chikkachannanjappa Setty, Kolar Municipality.

MR. V. R. CHIKKACHANNANJAPPA SETTY represented that in the recent orders of Government revising the scales of pay of officers and establishments, Government had done nothing to reduce the scales of pay of officers drawing more than Rs. 1,000. Government should reduce the salaries of such officers. He added that the Government had also not adopted a uniform policy in this matter. In some departments they had reduced the salaries and in others merely continued the old scales. There ought to be no such distinctions made, but all departments should be treated alike. Government had very heavy loans to discharge and they were at a loss to find out ways and means to do so. They could not expect to increase their revenues by additional taxation as the raiyats had already been taxed to the utmost limit. It was therefore necessary that in addition to seeing that future entrants into the services would be started on reduced salaries, the salaries of existing officers also should be reduced.

RAO SAHIB M. RAMASWAMI said that Government had imposed salary cuts to the extent of 10 per cent in the case of officers drawing Rs. 1,000 and above, and as such it was not correct to say that no reduction had been effected in their salaries.

Referring to the statement made in the Dewan's speech that the Government expected to save Rs. 3½ lakhs as a result of the revision of scales in the several departments of the State, MR. N. G. SANJEEVIAH asked for particulars as to how much of it would be contributed by higher officers only. He was of opinion that most of it would result from the reduction of salaries of the subordinate staff, and that even if a reduction was ordered in a few cases of higher officers, promotions had been given to such officers to a corresponding extent. The House had always suggested that revision of salaries should apply only to officers drawing high salaries. It was never its intention that the smaller officials should be mulcted of the little they were getting.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT said that it was not so and that almost the entire savings would be

effected as a result of cut from the salaries of higher officers.

MR. N. G. SANJEEVIAH said that the salaries of Deputy Commissioners and certain other Heads of Departments had not been reduced in the recent orders of Government and suggested that their salaries also should be reduced. Government could not expect to save much by merely reducing the grades without reducing the salaries also.

On behalf of Government, the FINANCIAL SECRETARY said that all the orders issued by the Government in the matter of revision of scales of salaries had already been published in the Gazette. In those orders it had been clearly stated that only future incumbents would be affected by them. The existing officers were already subjected to a 10 per cent cut. Future incumbents, however, would contribute this emergency cut unless it was done away with in all cases and in addition, the reduction of grades already ordered would also apply to them.

With regard to the observation that Government had only revised the grades and not salaries, he said that there was not much difference between the two since a reduction of grades would naturally imply a reduction of salaries.

MR. N. G. SANJEEVIAH said that this would amount to a double levy in the case of future incumbents which was not just. The effect of subjecting them to such a double disability would be to discourage them and also to impair efficiency unless the present incumbents were treated in like manner.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT said that it was not possible to reduce the permanent pay drawn by present incumbents since they had been, in a way, assured of the same.

MR. B. S. PUTTASWAMI said that this question had been engaging the attention of the House since 1932. The Government had, in the past, given expression to the opinion that grades and salaries once fixed could not be reduced without detriment to efficiency. But recent orders had shown that that opinion had undergone a modification perhaps due to want of funds, perhaps due to the realisation that the principle enunciated so far was not tenable. However that be, he was glad that reductions had been ordered recently. But he was sorry to find that those reductions had not been made applicable equally to all departments. The Deputy Commissioners of Districts and some other officers would continue in their old grades. This, he suspected, was due to an impression that members of the Civil Service always deserved a preferential treatment. If that was so, he would strongly object to such an impression continuing in future. There can be no gain-saying the fact that the raiyats had reached the maximum taxable capacity and as such there was no chance of Government taxing them any further. The only way in which they could meet their liabilities was to make the cut applicable to all cases, uniformly without any invidious distinction. Almost all the officers of Government were local men and in duty bound they should willingly come forward to bear their own share of self-sacrifice as was done by the officers and men of the Bedford County Council.

MR. B. N. BORANNA GOWDA endorsed the opinions expressed by the previous speaker.

MR. L. VEMA REDDY made a reference to the sufferings of the agriculturists particularly in the Kolar District, and instanced the case of Sunnakal Village in Srinivasapur Taluk where the poorer people had nothing to eat and were depending upon wild roots and leaves. The plight of cattle was no less pitiable, and for want of fodder the raiyats had either to sell them away for what they fetched or to let them loose in the forests. It was impossible for him to believe that when the agriculturists were undergoing such untold difficulties, the higher officers of Government could really make up their minds to lead comfortable lives in the cities, going about in motor cars and enjoying life in the way they were doing. This, he ventured to submit, was hardly consistent with the reputation which the State enjoyed for good Government and

sympathy to the general taxpayer. The Dewan, the Revenue Commissioner, and the Deputy Commissioner, who, he knew for a fact, had been convinced of the miserable state of affairs in the Kolar District, ought to do something to relieve the distress without any waste of time.

At this stage, the FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL reminded the member of the steps that Government had already taken to afford relief to agriculturists in their present plight.

MR. VEMA REDDY acknowledged all that had been done but added that what remained to be done was very much more than that. He was also thankful to the Director of Agriculture for the supply of *jola* seeds, but added that the quantity supplied was not enough to satisfy many of the applicants. Further supplies promised by the Director had not yet arrived and he was not sure if any would be received at all. He also brought to notice that several applications for the grant of special loans for sinking wells and for purchase of fodder had not been disposed of yet. He requested that these matters should receive attention immediately.

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE informed the member that a large supply of *jola* had been got from the Chitaldrug District and supplied to several taluks. If sufficient quantities had not been received in particular cases or if a few places had not received any supplies at all, it was due to certain practical difficulties such as delay in the railway junction stations. These difficulties had since been got over and the goods were actually on their way to the respective taluks. He also added that a special departmental officer had been deputed to see to the prompt moving forward of consignments of *jola* seed.

Coming back to the subject matter of the representation, MR. VEMA REDDY brought to notice that the raiyats who were on the verge of starvation would not be able to meet the next land revenue demand and therefore pleaded for substantial relief in that direction. In order to give relief, it was necessary for Government to make up their mind to abolish all sinecure appointments and make all possible reduction of expenditure in the several departments.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA said that even though this question was coming up frequently for some years past, the raiyats had not derived any relief simply because the Government had not made up their mind to extend such relief. No amount of argument on the floor of the House would bring them any relief unless the Government realised the great necessity for helping the hard-hit raiyats. The difficulties of the agriculturists were known to the Government and it was their duty to help them, finding the wherewithal by reducing salaries according to a certain percentage of all officers getting Rs. 800 and over. If this was done, the officers would not be put to any serious inconvenience because the prices of food grains, cloth and many other articles had materially gone down. At the same time, the raiyats would feel eternally grateful to the Government for affording them relief in their hour of dire need.

MR. SINGRI NANJAPPA referred to the Dewan's statement that the reduction of salaries already ordered was expected to result in a saving of about Rs. 3½ lakhs and said that compared to the total expenditure of the State under Establishment, the savings would not amount even to 3 per cent. And even this low percentage was expected to be realised only in course of time. It was necessary to effect larger savings under salaries, considering that already there were signs, despite the few showers recently received, of a great famine within the next two or three years.

MR. JATHARE NAIK appealed for voluntary offers of salary cuts by officers themselves in order to provide relief to the members of his community who stood in need thereof.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT observed that the Government were aware of the difficulties of the raiyats for which remedial action in various directions were necessary. They could not all be relieved by salary cuts alone. Taking all the circumstances into account, Government had ordered reductions in the scales of pay to the

extent they considered feasible. The reduction in the several departments depended on the circumstances pertaining to each department and there could not be a uniform reduction in all departments. If the total amount of reductions was not as much as some members might desire, it was due to the fact that the greater portion of the amount disbursed as pay was received by low paid officials like village school masters, police constables, etc.. and this was not susceptible of reduction. Further reductions were not considered desirable or possible by Government.

Referring to the statement of the Financial Secretary that the permanent pay drawn by the present incumbents could not be reduced because they have been assured of the same MR. H. M. CHANNABASAPPA said that the present level of land assessment had similarly been fixed on an assured return from land and when as at present the return from land had fallen, there would be no justification in collecting the full revenue demand. In this view, he pleaded for a substantial reduction of land revenue.

As regards the retrenchments so far ordered, he observed that the Government appeared to be adopting a step-motherly attitude towards departments like the Veterinary Department which vitally affected the interests of the agriculturists. He thought that in many other departments which were not of any material benefit to the raiyats drastic retrenchments ought to be effected.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that the Government had taken the relative importance and the needs of the several departments into consideration before ordering retrenchments. The extent to which expenditure could be reduced under each department was a matter of opinion which must ultimately vest with Government.

No. 3.—Reduction of assessment on lands.

Messrs. K. Manjanna, Minorities; U. Veerabhadrappa, Shikarpur Taluk; M. Krishnappa and M. Murigappa, Nagar Taluk; H. Mallappa Gowda, Sorab Taluk; and V. V. Iyer, Shimoga Taluk.

MR. V. V. IYER prayed that in view of the economic depression and low prices of agricultural produce, the land assessment be reduced by at least 25 per cent. He added that the raiyats were experiencing untold miseries at present. All their credit had been exhausted and yet the local officers who were anxious to show large collections under land revenue were adopting coercive processes without any regard to present conditions. It was up to the Model State to save the agriculturist from his difficulties by giving substantial relief in regard to land assessment. Many other smaller States as well as British Indian administrations had granted such relief and it was up to Mysore to follow suit.

MR. M. SIDDALINGAPPA SETTY brought to notice that particularly in Chikmagalur Taluk, the agriculturists stood in need of immediate relief. To pay the land revenue dues in the past year, almost all the agriculturists had to pledge their articles of jewellery with the local South Canara Bank and so far as the coming demand was concerned, they were all utterly unable to meet it. In these circumstances he was inclined to go further than the relief asked for in the representation under discussion. If this was done, the raiyats would live up to a future time when Government might expect to get something from them. Otherwise, he feared that the agricultural interests in that taluk would receive a set-back from which they could never recover.

MR. M. S. PUTTARAMIAH SETTY also pleaded for substantial relief to agriculturists.

MR. MIR MAHOMED SAHIB explained the difficulties of the raiyats in the malnad who were all under the clutches of private money-lenders, and pleaded for substantial measures of relief to save them.

MR. S. C. MALLAIYA observed that the line of argument employed during the past by those who were asking for a reduction of land revenue was that prices of agricultural products were low, that a return to the agriculturist was therefore less and that relief should be

given to him to a corresponding extent. But the position just at present was worse, because due to failure of rains, there was no sowing at all in a number of cases and so there could possibly be no question of any return at all from the land. The relief needed therefore was not one of reduction of land revenue, but a total waiver of the land revenue demand. It may be that in a few cases lands had been cultivated, but even in those cases, the return would at best not be more than four annas crop. In these circumstances, it was necessary for the Government to adopt a new departure, *viz.*, to remit the demand even in respect of dry lands. Personally he would suggest that a uniform reduction of land revenue by 25 per cent be granted in all cases.

MR. M. C. LINGE GOWDA hoped that Government were prepared to accede to the representation if only they could make up for the loss in some way. From this point of view, he suggested that all those outsiders who were doing business within the State should be subjected to income-tax without any reference to a minimum profit. These outsiders were enjoying the benefits of medical, police, education and other departments of the State and it was but reasonable that they should also contribute a quota of the cost of maintenance of those departments.

ANOTHER MEMBER supported Mr. S. C. Mallaiya's view that dry lands should not be denied the benefit of remission. He also suggested that the uniform reduction which the members were asking for should go up to 50 per cent of the demand and that Government should announce relief to that extent immediately.

MR. T. SHADAKSHARAPPA represented that it was only during the past two or three years that the raiyats had been pressing for concessions in view of fall in prices and failure of crops and that in former years they willingly bore the burden of land revenue as well as several cesses thereon. It was not as though they wanted to deceive the Government and gain any undue advantage over them. He had no doubt that the revenue officers were aware of the real situation in the districts and he hoped that the relief prayed for would be forthcoming.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL said that the representation had reference to the grant of relief to agriculturists on account of fall in prices and not on account of failure of rains. The entire subject of remission, however, had come up at the previous session of the Assembly and Government, recognising the raiyat's difficulties, had appointed a committee to go into the question. There were some Representative Assembly members and other experienced non-officials on that committee. The committee had met 5 or 6 times already and their report was expected to be received by Government by the end of November 1934. It was certain that the committee would make all reasonable recommendations to relieve the hard-hit raiyat. In the meanwhile, it was not possible for Government to accede to the request contained in the representation, *viz.*, reduction of land revenue by 25 per cent, not to speak of the request contained in the next subject, *viz.*, reduction by 50 per cent. It would not be practical politics to accept these representations.

MR. S. C. MALLAIYA and others brought to notice the failure of crops during the current year for want of rains and pressed for reduction of assessment even in the case of dry lands.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that suspension of collection in the case of dry lands in case of necessity was possible ; but whether there was necessity or not it would be difficult to say just then. He was sure that Jamabandi officers would inquire into that aspect of the question in proper time and make suitable recommendations to Government.

No. 4.—Reduction of assessment on lands.

Mr. K. Chengalaraya Reddy, Bowringpet Taluk.

It is prayed that the rates of assessment prevailing in the district of Kolar be immediately reduced as severe economic depression has come on the top of the admittedly high rates prevailing in the district.

No. 5.—Reduction of land assessment by 50 per cent.

Messrs. S. Kariappa, and G. Venkataramana Gowda, Kankanhalli Taluk; K. Y. T. Venkatachaliah, Kankanhalli Municipality; B. L. Byanna, Bangalore City Municipality; B. M. Munisamappa, Bangalore Taluk; S. Munivenkatappa, Minorities; K. Rudrappa, Devanhalli Taluk; R. Sharabhanna, Anekal Taluk; H. Gangappa, Magadi Taluk; Gurusamappa, Hoskote Taluk; and Veerasanjeeve Gowda, Closepet Taluk.

Owing to the present financial depression and failure of rains and consequent loss of crops, the agriculturists are subjected to great hardships. It is, therefore, prayed that the assessment on lands may be reduced by 50 per cent.

No. 6.—Remission of land revenue by 25 per cent till prices improve.

Messrs. B. L. Hutchappa, Channarayapatna Taluk; S. C. Beluriah, Minorities; and A. V. Nanjunda Setty, Arkalgud Taluk.

The land assessment, being excessive, the raiyats are unable to bear it. As such, the raiyats are resigning some lands and allowing others to lie fallow. Even in Cochin, which is a small State, remission of 12½ per cent was sanctioned last year. Even in the current year's budget the same concession is repeated. It is prayed that in our Model State general remission may be granted till the raiyats recover from this economic depression and prices improve.

No. 7.—Temporary remission of kandayam.

Messrs. K. Subba Rao, Sringeri Jahgir, and M. Siddalingappasetty, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Till the present economic condition of the State improves, it is prayed that a remission of land revenue to the extent of 25 per cent for raiyats paying a kandayam of Rs. 25 and below, 12½ per cent for raiyats paying a kandayam below Rs. 50 and of 6¼ per cent for all others may be ordered to be granted.

MR. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY prayed that the rates of assessment prevailing in the district of Kolar be immediately reduced as severe economic depression had come on the top of the admittedly high rates prevailing in the district. He added that it was no comfort to the people to be told by the Government that a certain committee was considering what relief was called for and would make suitable recommendations for being disposed of by the Government in course of time. The agriculturists were passing through untold miseries and the State as a whole demanded an assurance from the Government as to what material relief was going to be granted. It was certainly not enough to remit 25 per cent of land revenue as per the previous representation. The conditions really warranted in his opinion a total remission of the entire land revenue demand in respect of both dry and wet lands. The First Member of Council had been pleased to say that the committee referred to consisted of responsible officials and representatives of the non-official public and ought to be expected to make reasonable recommendations. But the speaker feared that the discretion of that committee had been fettered by the Government in advance as was evident from the hint thrown out to them in the terms of reference to the effect that any recommendations they might make must have due regard to the present financial position of the Government. This in effect would reduce the relief that might be recommended by the committee to little or nothing. Therefore, it was almost certain that any relief recommended by that committee would not satisfy the State as a whole. It was his object to bring it to the notice of the Government now alone that the raiyats stood in need of substantial relief and that public opinion as a whole favoured the grant of the same.

MR. B. L. HUCHAPPA also pleaded for a substantial remission of land revenue. He knew the Government had difficulties of their own and would not be able to meet their other demands if this request was granted. Therefore, he would suggest that the salaries of officers drawing Rs. 800 and more

be subjected to a 25 per cent cut and the savings utilised for making up for the loss in revenue on account of land revenue remissions.

MR. V. VENKATAPPA referred to the extent to which conditions in the rural parts had gone worse ever since the subjects under discussion had been sent up by the members about 1½ months back. The First Member of Council had been pleased to refer the House to the expected report of the special committee. But the speaker feared that the few showers that were received within the past one or two weeks in several parts of the State might influence the decisions of that committee. In that view he asserted that the showers were not expected to benefit the agriculturist in any way except to the extent of bringing a few days' supply to the tanks and affording fodder to cattle for a few days. At best the crop that might be expected on account of those showers might not exceed 2 annas in the rupee. He therefore hoped that the committee would make recommendations for relief in a manner satisfactory to the agricultural classes. The First Member had also been pleased to say that Jamabandi officers would inquire into the conditions and recommend suitable relief even in the case of dry lands. In that connection, the speaker feared that the subordinate officials were under a mistaken notion that their own prospects might improve only if they made heavy collections and that with this object in view they generally reported that crops were good even though the truth might be otherwise. The Jamabandi officers naturally depended upon the *pahni* accounts; but often for the reason mentioned above, these accounts were, not a dependable guide. He requested the Government to instruct the Jamabandi officers to bear this aspect of the question also in mind before making their own recommendation in regard to suspension of revenue.

In conclusion, he said that the position of the agriculturist at present was worse than ever before and unless the burden of revenue was lightened in the next season, there was no hope of his recovering from the set-back received during the current year.

MR. L. VEMA REDDY endorsed all the statements made by the previous speaker and added that the difficulties of the raiyats brought to notice by various members were genuine and hoped that Government would realise them and willingly grant all the relief asked for. He feared that the Government might imagine that conditions in the districts were really not so bad because it might be that collections in some cases were good. He thought that good collections were often due to the energetic action and coercive measures taken by local officers for reasons best known to themselves. The hardship caused to the raiyats on account of such coercive measures could not be described adequately. But so far as the next year was concerned, even coercive steps might not result in good collections because the condition of the raiyats was most deplorable. This being so, he appealed to the Government to extend relief to the agriculturists in a liberal measure—even beyond what the rules at present provided for. In this connection, he reminded the First Member of Council of the disparity in assessment that existed as between the Kolar District and the adjoining tracts of British India. This was also a reason why the rates in the Kolar District should be permanently reduced.

At this stage the Assembly rose for lunch and met again at 3-30 p.m.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA supported Mr. Venkatappa's observations. Speaking with particular reference to the Kadur District, he brought to notice that almost all the agriculturists had pledged their jewellery with the South Canara Bank as that bank would advance loans only on the security of gold; and there was no chance of redeeming those jewels. The large landholders of that district were in no better position than petty agriculturists because, while the latter suffered losses on account of failure of crops, the former suffered in addition on account of non-recovery of the loans

advanced by them to the smaller agriculturists; in the result both were in equal need of relief. Already they had sold away all their belongings to pay the revenue demand in the past and they had nothing more to sell for meeting the impending demand. Even the stock of hay that a few raiyats had had been disposed of on account of the prices they commanded. It was no solace to them to be told that a particular committee was inquiring into the question of relief. Their report was expected some time in November next and they could not be sure that orders of Government would be passed immediately granting the required amount of relief. The next collection season was almost in sight and there was no chance of the Assembly meeting in the meanwhile. It was usual for the Government to say that once the collection season was over there was no great hurry for passing orders on the question of relief required in connection with the ensuing collection season. The same history, he feared, would repeat itself so far as the impending collections were concerned. This was why he pressed for an immediate announcement as regards the relief that the Government were willing to grant. Besides, the raiyats were not satisfied with the way in which the special committee was conducting its inquiry. He knew for a fact that the members of the committee were not touring about in any interior parts; they merely sent up questionnaires and obtained information from official sources mainly; and if information was wanting on any particular point, all they did was to make another reference to the districts and adjourn the meeting till the same was received. At this rate, he had no hopes of any material relief being recommended by the committee or granted by the Government.

Mr. Patti Basappa referred to the total failure of rains in the Chitaldrug District and wanted special measures of relief for it.

Mr. S. Venkataswami Gowda described at great length the miserable plight of the raiyats in the Kolar District. In some parts they had depended till now on prickly pear fruits and other available wild roots and leaves having nothing else to eat; but of late they had run short of even those things and the bulk of the raiyats were literally starving. When the position of man was so bad, it was needless to describe the position of cattle. For want of fodder many cattle had died and many others were disposed of for a song. The few that survived had nothing to eat. There was no grass for them and the supply obtained by the officials from the Hessarghatta Military Grass Farm was not enough for even a few of the cattle. A larger supply had been promised by the officials, but it was still not obtained. He had been told that in view of a few showers received within the past one or two weeks, the local officials had abandoned the idea of getting further supplies. He doubted whether the showers received recently would be enough to give the requisite quantity of fodder for all the cattle and he therefore appealed to the Government to instruct the local officials to get sufficient quantities from the grass farm as originally planned.

As regards the subject matter of the representation, he asserted that there was no doubt that both wet and dry crops in the district had altogether failed and that in all cases a total remission of assessment was urgently called for.

Mr. H. B. Gundappa described the miserable position of the raiyats in the Hassan District and said that the present condition of crops as well as the low rainfall indicated that the raiyats would be altogether unable to pay even a portion of the land revenue demand. For this reason, it would be necessary for the Government to declare a total remission of revenue. He was sorry that the First Member of Council should have simply referred the House to the deliberations of the special committee in connection with this request. But he had not high hopes of the committee recommending any large measure of relief because, as already pointed out by the previous speakers, the committee had been asked to see that their recommendations had due regard to the

present financial position of the Government. This hint, he feared, made the members of the House suspect that Government had not adequately realised the position of the raiyats. As already observed by the members of the Assembly and the Council on a number of occasions in the past, the Government were going on financing several losing concerns like the Krishnarajendra Mills and the Bhadravati Iron Works despite popular protests. He wondered how the Government were finding the funds for all that; and when the Government were continuing to encourage such concerns, it would be hardly fair to deny a much needed relief for which the raiyats were agitating so persistently for some years past. There was no doubt that the agricultural conditions this year were worse than ever before and that, therefore it was the duty of the Government to see that every possible relief was extended to the raiyats somehow or other. It was necessary for the Government to make up their mind on this question and make an announcement immediately. Otherwise the helpless raiyats could not escape all the hardships caused by the local officials enforcing coercive measures.

In this connection, he felt it his duty to bring to the notice of the Government that at least in a few places the Amildars were, in the course of their Jamabandi, compelling patels to record fictitious collections in the *khirdi* accounts and were charging them for misappropriation and other lapses in case these failed to remit to the treasury the full amount on the due dates. There were also instances in which Amildars asked patels to pay a certain portion of the total demand in anticipation of actual collection from the raiyats. Such unauthorised and high-handed action on the part of local officials, he said, should be put down and not encouraged. It was possible for the raiyats as well as the village officers to prove that such things were taking place, but if they were not doing so, it was for obvious reasons.

In conclusion, he said that nobody had entertained any high hopes of the committee recommending any substantial relief to the agriculturists and that without waiting for their report, the Government should graciously make up their mind and announce some relief so that the representatives of the people might return to their places with a message of practical sympathy and goodwill from the Government.

MR. B. N. BORANNA GOWDA prefaced his remarks by an observation that Government were generally guided by rainfall reports whenever the question of collections or relief to the raiyats was mooted. So far as the rainfall for this particular year was concerned, he pointed out that particularly in the Belur Taluk, it was only a few tracts that had received showers worth the name and that several other parts had received no rain whatever. He hoped that this circumstance would not be ignored by the Government in disposing of the question of relief so far as the current year was concerned.

Continuing, he stated that both the raiyats and their cattle were on the verge of starvation. The cattle till now had been fed on green leaves. When they were so anxious about the maintenance of cattle in the coming months, fresh anxiety was created by the local revenue officials who were already getting active in connection with the Jamabandi. As was brought to notice by previous speakers, the raiyats had sold away all their belongings for meeting the revenue demand in the past few years and on account of failure of crops this year, there was no hope whatever of their paying even a part of the next revenue demand. The committee to which reference was made by a number of speakers was not expected to recommend relief to all the districts of the State, manned as it was by representatives coming only from a few of the districts. He also repeated the observations of Mr. Gundappa with regard to the Amildars compelling patels to record fictitious collections in the *khirdi* accounts, and where village officers failed to remit such collections to the treasury, charging them for misappropriation. Under such circumstances, already in one taluk

10 to 15 shanbhogues and 40 to 50 patels had actually been charged for misappropriation and arrested. It was not always possible for these poor men to run up to the headquarters of the district or to the seat of the Government and explain all their troubles. It was, therefore, up to the Government to take note of such high-handedness on the part of subordinate officials and to see that no undue hardship was caused to the raiyats in the matter of payment of assessment. The only hope that the raiyats had of relief lay in the sympathy which the highest officers had for the hard-hit raiyats. He hoped that the Government would make up their mind to announce substantial relief in view of the present unprecedented plight of the agriculturists.

MR. BALE GOWDA represented that the raiyats stood in need of immediate relief. The rains having completely failed this year, he did not know how the Government expected the raiyat to pay any portion of land revenue demand. It might be that the rules did not contemplate remissions in cases of dry lands, but in view of the present unprecedented position he thought it only fair that the Government granted remissions even in the case of such lands.

Reference had been made by the Government to the appointment of a special committee which was considering the question of relief to agriculturists. But the speaker was afraid that its recommendations might possibly be influenced by the recent showers received in several parts of the State. He hoped, however, that this would not be the case, because, in the first place, the rains were extremely belated, altogether scanty and useful, if at all, only to the extent of bringing a few weeks' supply to the tanks and yielding fodder for cattle which would suffice only for a short time. Again, the recent rains would not by themselves be of any value to the agriculturist unless in the coming weeks also there were similar showers. And even then, the crop expected to be realised would not be more than two annas. In these circumstances, he strongly supported the representation.

MR. S. KARIAPPA also, supporting the representation observed that this subject had become a hardy annual. But the difficulties of the raiyats this year were somewhat peculiar; they were due more to the failure of rains than to fall in prices. The Revenue Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner had visited the Kankanhalli Taluk, heard the prayers of the agriculturists and after inspection had sanctioned certain minor concessions. So far he was thankful to them. But, in his opinion, this was not enough; reduction of land revenue alone would give any relief worth the name. The argument that Government could not reduce the assessment during the currency of the present settlement period seemed to him untenable. For, when they could increase land revenue, it went without saying that they could also reduce it. Such a special measure was called for at present in view of the fact that the raiyats in almost all cases had nothing to eat; till recently they were depending upon certain leaves and wild vegetables found in tank beds and forests, but at present even these were not available and the raiyats were literally on the verge of starvation. They were getting almost desparate and it was certain that they could not pay anything by way of land revenue. In these circumstances, there seemed to him no alternative to the grant of a general full remission of revenue, such remission being reduced however to the extent of the yield, if any, in particular cases.

MR. ABDUL KHALEEL SAHEB in supporting the representation, observed that the raiyats were not fortunate enough to elicit due sympathy at the hands of local officers. As an instance of want of sympathy on the part of subordinate officials, he said that in Biskur Village plough cattle had been attached without the knowledge of the owner on account of arrears of revenue and that later on the owner who took them back to his house, ignorant of the attachment, was proceeded against and fined to the extent of nearly double the arrears of land revenue.

MR. NILGIRI G. SANJIVIAH referred to the failure of rains, the fall in prices, the absence of credit facilities and

other difficulties which the agriculturists were at present experiencing and pleaded for the grant of takavi loans on a liberal scale and without delay. He added that while the Government were prepared to incur large expenditure, even from borrowed funds, on unproductive works like the Iron Works, the University, etc., it was unfortunate that they seemed unwilling to come to the rescue of the hard-hit raiyat. He also brought to notice that even where takavi loans were sanctioned, the full amounts were not reaching the hands of the raiyats concerned for various reasons and requested the Government to see that wherever malpractices existed they were put down with a strong hand.

Referring to the conditions in the Chitaldrug District, as well as in Sira Taluk, MR. K. P. CHANNABASAVIAH brought to notice that the prospect for the next year was very gloomy since crops of all kinds were very poor and were also affected by pests. In such circumstances, the sympathy of local officers was expected in a large measure; but, unfortunately there were no evidences of such sympathy on their part. It looked to him as though subordinate officials were under the impression that so long as the Government dues were collected any amount of coercion towards the raiyats would not be taken notice of by the Government. And perhaps the Government were under the impression that the recent rains had done much good and that the agitation of the agriculturists was not justified. He was firmly of opinion that unless the coming weeks also witnessed similar showers, the recent rains would be of very little use. At the same time, there were several instances in Chitaldrug District of tanks having been allowed to remain in disrepair for decades together. Unless all the tanks were maintained properly, even heavy rains in proper seasons would be of little value to the agricultural population because all the rain-water would flow out. The question of tank restoration was thus one for important consideration at the hands of the Government. If this work was not possible in particular cases for either financial or other reasons, it would be up to the Government to consider whether a reduction of *atchkat* under such tanks was not called for. In particular, he requested that the *atchkats* under the Herogere and Mannigarahalli tanks which had absolutely no reference to the capacity of the tanks should be materially reduced.

MR. H. K. MADAIYA brought to notice the great hardship that the raiyats in Danagur and other villages of Malvalli Taluk were experiencing for want of food. They were in fact thinking of marching to the Dewan's residence at Bangalore to explain their miserable plight and to appeal for immediate redress of their grievances. Luckily the recent rains had brought some hope to them. But, in the meanwhile, their cattle had, in many cases, died and in respect of the few that were surviving the local officials were seeking to levy heavy fees for grazing them in State forests. He requested that in this matter the Government must kindly give all possible relief to the raiyats.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER IN MYSORE, in replying observed, that the discussions which had so far taken place related to two points. One was that the raiyats had been put to a lot of difficulty owing to the phenomenal fall in prices in recent years and that the Government should do something to remove the difficulty. And the second was, that on account of the apprehended failure of crops, both dry and wet, due to failure of rains in the present year, the Government should undertake measures of relief. These were two very distinct questions. In regard to both these points, the First Member of Council had already replied what the Government proposed to do. They had appointed a committee to go into the question of relief to the raiyats and their report was expected to be received some time in November next. Some members had expressed the fear that the Government would take their own time to pass orders on the report, that in the meanwhile the local officials in charge of collections would not stay their hand and that the benefit of any

recommendations that the committee might make would not really reach the agriculturists. To that he would only say in reply that after all the *khist* period was still pretty far off and even if the committee's report was received in November, the Government would have sufficient time to consider their proposals and pass orders well in advance of the collection season. Some other members had objected to the terms of reference which required the recommendations of the committee to be framed with reference to the present financial condition of the State. He did not know what objection there could possibly be to such a direction. Simply because this suggestion was contained in the terms of reference, it should not be presumed that the question of relief would not receive adequate consideration. Whether such a suggestion was given or not, no responsible committee would make recommendations without due regard to the financial possibilities. In effect, the House might reasonably expect that the committee would do their duty properly and that Government would pass orders on their report before the *khist* season commenced.

As to the question how the Government proposed to meet the abnormal situation owing to failure of rains, he said that there were some showers recently in October in all parts of the State and these were sure to have greatly relieved the situation. Much would depend upon the next showers and it was too early to say how much crop would be realised, which tanks would have an adequate supply of water and which taluks and hoblis need relief most, etc. The department was getting progress reports every week and the situation would have to be watched for some time longer before coming to any decision as to the relief needed in the several parts of the State. In this view it was desirable that members should not be in any great hurry in asking Government to immediately announce the exact measure of relief which they might be prepared to grant.

MR. G. SHANKARA SETTY said that conditions in the Pavagada Taluk were bad even last year and with failure of rains during the current year it was certain that the position of the raiyat in the coming months would be worse than before. He was sorry that the Deputy Commissioner of the Tumkur District should have reported to the Government that previous representations of the people with regard to the agricultural situation were exaggerated versions and said that the position was really one deserving of the utmost sympathy. On account of failure of crops, the agriculturist was put to a considerable difficulty and cattle also had nothing to eat. It would have been of some relief if permission had been granted for grazing the cattle in State forests. But even this facility had not been extended. On this account, the raiyats had been obliged to send their cattle to shandis in adjoining parts of British India where they were being sold for very low prices. He appealed to the Dewan and the Members of Council to visit the taluk, if possible, without previous intimation to the local officers, so that they may be convinced of the truth of these representations.

MR. B. NARAYANA REDDY observed that distress had already set in in several parts of the State and that Government should immediately take up special measures like digging wells, improving tanks and starting of food control measures.

THE DEWAN replied that the Deputy Commissioners would be instructed to make enquiries and report upon the present situation and that if the position became worse, Government would certainly consider what special relief should be afforded in addition to the grant of remissions.

No.8.—Levy of wet assessment on garden lands which are under deterioration.

Messrs. Sheik Mohadin Sab, Sira Municipality and S. Sorappa and K. P. Channabasaviah, Sira Taluk.

MR. K. P. CHANNABASAVIAH pointed out that owing to scanty rainfall in recent years, the bagayet gardens had dried up and were being converted into wet. But in view of such conversion,

the assessment on these lands could not be reduced during the currency of the present settlement period with the result that the owners would have to suffer. He therefore prayed that as a special case the Jamabandi officers be instructed to levy only wet assessment on these lands.

The FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that orders had been passed in April 1934 sanctioning remission of the difference between wet and garden rates every year until the next re-classification in respect of villages in Sira Taluk.

No. 9.—Certain crops in coffee estates to be exempted from bagayet assessment.

Dharmapravartha M. L. Nagappasetty, Chikmagalur Municipality and Mr. M. Siddalingappasetty, Chikmagalur Taluk.

DHARMAPRAVARTHA M. L. NAGAPPASETTY observed that it was usual to grow areca, cardamom and plantains in ravines and around living quarters in coffee estates merely for ornamental purposes and represented that recently heavy bagayet assessment, ranging between Rs. 10 and Rs. 15 per acre, had begun to be levied in addition to wet assessment already levied on the entire estate. This he said, was an unjustifiable double levy and he prayed that the bagayet assessment be discontinued.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA observed that so far as he knew the difficulty referred to by the previous speaker was not a general complaint of the district and that, if at all, the representation might be an individual grievance.

building sites. In the case of grants under the revised orders, however, the assessment was raised to Rs. 1-4-0 with a view to bring it on a par with that leviable on coffee and cardamom lands. Thus he thought that there was no question of any new levy at all. But if there were any specific cases of the nature complained of, he said, they might be brought to the notice of Government.

The House then rose for the day to meet again at 12 of the clock the next day.

SECOND DAY

Saturday, 20th October 1934.

The House reassembled at 12 of the clock.

Before the business of the day was taken up, KHAN BAHADUR MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN offered the felicitations of the Assembly to Messrs. S. P. Rajagopalachari, the Second Member of Council, and R. Ranga Rao, the Chief Secretary to Government, on being the recipients at the hands of His Highness the Maharaja of the titles of Rajamantrapravina and Rajasevasakta, respectively, at the Durbar held the previous evening in appreciation of the valuable services rendered by these officers to the State.

MESSRS. D. S. MALLAPPA and L. VEMA REDDY associated themselves with the sentiments expressed by the previous speaker.

On behalf of the lady members of the Assembly, MRS. P. G. D'SOUZA also